

**EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES AND DEEPEST
SYMPATHIES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE UNTIMELY DEATH
OF MACEDONIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI**

MARKUP
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

ON

H. Res. 540

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DEEPEST SYMPATHIES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE UNTIMELY
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TRAJKOVSKI**

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2004

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:39 a.m. in Room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Doug Bereuter presiding.

MR. BEREUTER. Pursuant to notice, I call up the resolution, H. Res. 540, for the purposes of markup. Without objection, the resolution will be considered as read and open for amendment at any point.

H. Res. 540 expresses condolences and deepest sympathies of the U.S. House of Representatives upon the death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.

[H. Res. 540 follows:]

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 540

Expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2004

Mr. SOUDER (for himself and Mr. WOLF) submitted the following resolution;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the House of Representatives for the untimely death of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.

Whereas on February 26, 2004, President Boris Trajkovski of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was tragically killed in a plane crash in Bosnia-Herzegovina while he was on his way to an international investment conference;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski served Macedonia as Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs from December 21, 1998 until he was inaugurated as President on December 15, 1999;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski stood up for what he believed was right and moral, even when he faced opposition within Macedonia;

Whereas under Mr. Trajkovski's leadership, Macedonia was one of the first countries to publicly support Operation Iraqi Freedom and to commit troops to the effort;

Whereas during Macedonia's armed ethnic clashes Mr. Trajkovski demonstrated his willingness to work with all of Macedonia's ethnic groups, which helped to prevent a civil war;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski was a strong believer in free markets and worked tirelessly to bring development and investment to Macedonia;

Whereas Mr. Trajkovski worked to foster peace for the entire Balkan region and to integrate Macedonia into the international community; and

Whereas the death of Mr. Trajkovski is a tragedy for the people of Macedonia: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the family of President Boris Trajkovski, and the families of the other crash victims;

6 (2) expresses its desire for a smooth and orderly transition of power; and

8 (3) expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Macedonia and the Macedonian government during this tragedy.

○

MR. BEREUTER. On February 26, President Boris Trajkovski of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was tragically killed in a plane crash over Bosnia-Herzegovina, while traveling to Mostar to attend a regional economic conference. He and eight other people on the aircraft died in this tragic accident. I understand that the official state funeral will occur in the capital on Friday of this week.

President Trajkovski is one of the most important reasons why Macedonia is making the progress it has made in recent years. He was an important leader and voice of reason in resolving the ethnic conflict that was threatening his country 3 years ago, and in implementing the Ohrid peace agreement of August 2001. His leadership and moderation between opposing sides has been absolutely essential in creating the conditions for the progress that his government and his country have made since then.

He worked tirelessly to ensure that democratic values and institutions would prevail in his country, and to bring his country closer toward full integration in the Euro-Atlantic institutions. In May of last year, his country joined Croatia and Albania in signing the Adriatic Charter, an agreement to commit to reforms and cooperation in order to prepare these countries for accession into NATO. His country has been a strong supporter of the international war against terrorism, and has contributed forces to operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Tragically, his country was scheduled to formally submit its application to become a candidate for membership in the European Union last week, on February 26th, the very day of the tragic accident.

Historically, President Trajkovski will be known for saving his country from civil war. This resolution recognizes that fact and his leadership and his importance to his country. The resolution is an affirmation that the U.S. House of Representatives supports the reforms that President Trajkovski implemented and the progress that all Macedonians have made. May the government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the people of Macedonia continue to follow his example, and continue along his path of reform, progress, peace, and democracy.

This Member would also like to express his deepest sympathies and condolences to the Boris Trajkovski family, to his country, and to all of the Macedonian people.

This resolution was introduced by Mr. Souder and Mr. Wolf, and, of course, we will welcome additional co-sponsors today by contacting Mr. Morelli.

I urge passage of the resolution. I turn to the Ranking Member for any comments he might like to make.

Mr. WEXLER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I join the Chairman in offering my most sincere condolences to the people of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on the tragic loss of President Boris Trajkovski. I would also like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the President's family, as well as to those families who were also tragically killed on the airplane.

Macedonia, the Balkans and the world have been deeply affected by the untimely loss of President Trajkovski. His bold leadership in bringing his nation closer to the West, as the Chairman said, uniting all Macedonians to prevent civil war in this fledgling na-

tion and his legacy of progress will be remembered by all Macedonians who champion his worthy cause.

The United States has lost a true friend and partner in the Balkans. Under his unwavering leadership, President Trajkovski and Macedonia have stood together with the United States in the war on terror and in rebuilding Iraq. It is now America's turn to stand with the Macedonian people during these difficult times and pledge our friendship and support as they deal with this terrible loss and they schedule new elections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BEREUTER. Thank you, Mr. Wexler. Are there other Members who wish to speak on this resolution?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Seeing none, are there amendments?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. Seeing no amendments, the Chair will now entertain a motion that the resolution be reported favorably to the full Committee.

Mr. WEXLER. I so move.

Mr. BEREUTER. I thank the gentleman. Is there discussion?

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The question occurs on the motion to report the resolution, H. Res. 540, favorably. All in favor, say aye. Aye.

[A chorus of ayes.]

Mr. BEREUTER. All opposed, say no.

[No response.]

Mr. BEREUTER. The motion is approved. The bill is reported favorably. The staff is directed to make any technical and conforming amendments.

It is also our intention, I would mention, to take the resolution to the House Floor next week as part of the suspension calendar.

I thank the Members for their cooperation in moving this H. Res. 540, and now we will resume the hearing on the European and Transatlantic relationship.

[Whereupon, at 10:44 a.m., the Subcommittee was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

MATERIAL SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD

LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER CERVENKOVSKI FROM MARTIN VULAJ SUBMITTED FOR THE RECORD BY THE HONORABLE ELIOT L. ENGEL, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

March 3, 2004.

Hon. BRANKO CERVENKOVSKI, *Prime Minister,*
Republic of Macedonia,
Skopje, Macedonia.

DEAR MR. PRIME MINISTER: It is with deep sadness that we learned of the tragic demise of President Boris Trajkovski. On behalf of the National Albanian American Council and our Chairman, Mr. Ilirijan Rusi, please accept our deepest condolences for his loss and the loss of his aides and crew members of the aircraft. We also extend our condolences to the family of President Trajkovski as well as the families of the others who so prematurely lost their lives in that tragic accident.

While we did not always agree with the policies of President Trajkovski, we appreciated his accessibility, sense of fairness, and commitment to the people of Macedonia. We particularly valued his key role in ending the 2001 conflict, helping to realize the Ohrid agreement and putting Macedonia on the firm path toward her European future.

We were in Albania when we heard of the tragic event. The news was uniformly met with a sense of profound sadness by the people of Albania. It is a sadness that we all share. President Trajkovski's easy charm and effective leadership will be missed.

Sincerely,

MARTIN VULAJ, *Executive Director,*
National Albanian American Council.

